



Dynasty Bronx Group Drill Team

**By COL Leonard A. Blascovich, CAP
National Historian**

Legacy, dynasty & mentoring are the new catchword of today; I truly knew a man who has met the challenges and succeed in all. For it is with heavy heart and a deep sadness to announce that on Saturday, April 12 1997, CAP and I lost a truly dedicated friend, Major Charles Chaulisian CAP died of a massive heart attack.

Charlie was born in New York City on Jan 20, 1938, of Dominican ancestries, as a young kid joined CAP with the New York City Group in 1953. His CAP Cadet career was outstanding receiving his Certificate of Proficiency in 1957, went on to become the Cadet Group Commander, drill master of the Praetorian Guard, Manhattan Group's (MGDT) famed drill team of the 50's. Participated on the many competitions MGDT was the NER winner and as such went on to the 1956, National Drill Competition (NDC). And help train the 1958 NYC team. Moreover he was selected to go to Canada in 1958 on the International Drill Competition.

We were contemporaries and as in the old day's adversaries, the rivalry between units and especially drill team's i.e. Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens & Manhattan were legendary and made the cold war pale by comparison. When it was a Wing or National event, such as encampments, NDC or the betterment of the program all rivalry took a back seat CAP was first and foremost.

I was one the national and Charlie was one of the host (NY) wing project officers for the 1959 National Drill Competition (NDC), which was held in Rockefeller Center, New York City in July of 1959. We had eight male and three female teams, as participants along with the 1st AF Band and a slew of visiting USAF and civilian dignitaries to contend with. The event was successful with over 200,000 people watching the competition.

Charlie went on to New York University and received a BA degree in Accounting. Served in the Army, but curtailed his military and other career goals to head up the family bakery business. We loss touch, going our separate ways.

Then a chance meeting combined with members of the Bronx Group and a phone call in 1979 they asked Charlie If he would possible visit and give an evaluation to the cadets members who were trying to start up a team. So he came, he saw, he commented, he suggested, and he rejoined CAP.

Since rejoining CAP, Charlie touched the lives of many cadets and seniors alike, and made a markedly positive mentoring impression on literally hundreds of cadets.

He was always quick to support when asked, in 1989 when I asked him to help continue the NER - NCC tradition, to foster and build up the NCC teams. Without hesitation he supported the New Jersey Wing "Dragon" team, which represented NER at the NCC. And in fact the NJ team went on to, win the 1989 National Cadet Competition...

The tradition and legacy continued, and the rest is as they say is now history and the records speaks for its self

**THE BRONX GROUP DRILL TEAM
NEW YORK WING, NORTHEAST REGION, CIVIL AIR PATROL**

NATIONAL CADET COMPETITION ACHIEVEMENTS

Events	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1988
Innovative	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Inspection	4	2	2	1	1	1	3	6
Standard	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	4
<i>Drill</i>	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	*
Mile run	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Volleyball	6	4	3	5	1	1	3	1
<i>Physical</i>	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	*
Panel quiz	1	6	3	7	1	1	3	1
Written exam	7	6	5	4	3	3	1	1
NCC Standing	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1

**No longer awarded.*



BRONX GROUP DRILL TEAM PATCH

HISTORY:

Their record since **re-activation** in **1980** is truly outstanding, considering that after a twenty-year hiatus from drill competition participation, and when drill was the only criteria. The Bronx Group Drill Team (BGDT) won 161 Wing, Region and National trophies, including the 1980, 82, 84, 85 and 88 National **Cadet Competition (NCC) Championship**.

The 1981, 83 and 86 **NCC Runner-up award**.

The 1982, 84 and 85 **NCC Special Team awards**.

The 1980, 82 and 85 **NCC Outstanding Cadet awards**.

HONORS:

The (BGDT) received **five** *CAP Unit Citations (UC)* were awarded in the years of 1981, 83, 85, 86 and 89 (the highest number by any one uncharted CAP unit).

The **first** Unit Citation (UC) in 1981 along with the USAF Chief of Staff Sweepstakes trophy was presented by *General Lew Allen Jr., USAF* the USAF Chief of Staff. The team received their **second** in 1983 and trophy by the late Vice Chief of Staff *General Jerome F. O'Malley, USAF*. The **third** and **fourth** UC's and trophy's in 1986 and 1987 by General *Charles A. Gabriel, USAF*, CoS USAF. And the **fifth** UC and trophy in 1989 was presented by General *Monroe W. Hatch Jr., USAF*, the Vice Chief of Staff and Chief Master Sergeant of the AF, CMS *James C. Binnicker, USAF* himself a former CAP cadet.

The Bronx Group Drill Team in 1983 was also selected to represent the CAP Cadets (the first NCC Championship team to do so) and present the 1983, 85, 86 and 88, **Civil Air Patrol Annual Report to Congress**.

BACKGROUND:

The Bronx Group Drill Team (BGDT) was comprised of inner-city cadets from the New York City metropolitan area, (The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and Staten Island) because of the high time and demands that are imposed upon the teams it has had an annual attrition rate of approximately 60%. Even though it has, in its aerospace efforts been able to achieve the following 2 Spaatz, 9 Earhart's and 23 Mitchell Awards, this was accomplished when many of the cadets have difficulty with English comprehension.

CADETS:

Two Cadet Team Commanders, (1982) and (1988) attained the Spaatz Award, the first # 703 was to **Cadet Colonel Hector E. Marcayda**, in 1984 and was presented to him by General Bennie L. Davis, Commander of SAC and himself a former CAP Cadet during WW II. The second #927 to Cadet **Colonel Clement A. Stewart** in 1989 by General Monroe W. Hatch Jr., the USAF Vice Chief of Staff.

In 1988 the BGDT, Northeast Region team selected 2 cadets from the New Jersey Wing, Cadets Robert Belmont, and Harry Magazu to participate as team members at the NCC and it truly became a "Northeast Region" team.

Cadet Team Commanders (NCC)

1980- Michael Spencer	1980 NCC Outstanding Cadet
1981- Paul Tanks	
1982- Hector Marcayda	1982 NCC Outstanding Cadet
1983- Jesus Figueroa	
1984- Mark Springer	
1985- Domingo Torres	1985 NCC Outstanding Cadet
1986- Douglas Thompson	
1988- Clement Stewart	

Cadet Jesus Figueroa, and two other BGDT members completed USAF-ROTC and were commissioned in the USAF, Cadet Hector Marcayda, was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corp and Cadet Paul Tanks as a Naval Aviator and both served with distinction during Desert Shield & Desert Storm conflict.

Many other cadets went on to attend colleges, and became a part of and players in diversified industries, public services, and academia. In fact one receiving a doctorate from Harvard, one became a award winning newspaper reporter, one a radio station manager, and another is in charge as chief buyer for a prestige department store chain.

SENIORS:

Behind every successful team has been a cadre of dedicated seniors and support staff that provided guidance, direction and help, and the same applied to the **Bronx Group Drill Team**. Here is a list of just some of the people that helped build the (BGDT) winning teams up through the years at each phase and level of Civil Air Patrol's Wing, Region and National competition wins.

BRONX GROUP - LTC Patrick J. Magee* - MAJ Charles Chaluian* - MAJ Henry Juan* - 1LT John Franco* - MAJ Annette Leder

NEW YORK WING - LTC Joy S. Nelson* - CPT Edwin Rabassa*

NORTHEAST REGION - LTC Leonard A. Blascovich*

**Former CAP Cadets*

Furthermore, LTC Blascovich, MAJ Magee, (1983) and CPT's Juan and Chaluisan (1985) were awarded the prestigious CAP *Distinguished Service Medal* for their outstanding contribution to the Civil Air Patrol, the National Cadet Competition, and continuous support and dedication to and for the Cadet program. LTC Nelson, MAJ Leder, CPT Rabassa, and 1LT Franco were awarded the *Exceptional Service Award* from National Headquarters for their outstanding contributions to Civil Air Patrol.

The Bronx Group Drill Team, Northeast Region Team by 1988 won 59 awards at the NCC since 1980 this was so far was the highest amount ever. The second highest at the time was the teams from California, Pacific Region with 25. And the North Carolina, Middle-East Region Team came a close third with 17.

During the 1980's the Bronx Group Drill Team set the standard for the National Cadet Competition, for sportsmanship, professionalism, teamwork, pride.

And on many occasion this was commented on by the National Commander's, General's Cass and Harwell, the Air University Commander General Cleveland, CAP-USAF staff and the reservist that administered the NCC during this period.

Well I have to believe that Major Charlie Chaluisan in his passing is doing his thing, and the angels are being taught how to "guide & cover" under the tutelage of the "Drill Master" Hup, two, tree, four....Go get'em Charlie...